

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 22 is amended.

Claims 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 22 has been amended responsive to the rejection. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-13 and 25 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 18-20 and 22-24.

Claims 14-16, 21 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ishii et al. (Ishii), U.S. Patent No. 6,206,501. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ishii fails to disclose an inkjet head having a manifold channel formed to be a looped channel in the at least one manifold plate and being in fluid communication with each of the ink pressure chambers to distribute the ink thereamong, as recited in claim 14 and as similarly recited in claims 15, 16 and 21.

Ishii discloses an inkjet recording head with a thermal deposition film 115 that includes windows 116 that coincide with the common ink chamber 110 (Fig. 2 and col. 5, lines 32-36). Ishii also discloses a common ink chamber forming plate 118 that also includes windows 120 (col. 5, lines 37-41). As illustrated in Fig. 2, the windows 116, 120 are substantially V-shaped and correspond to the shape of the common ink chamber 110 (col. 5, lines 42-44).

Accordingly, Ishii fails to disclose a manifold channel formed to be a looped channel because Ishii discloses V-shaped windows 116, 120. In order to create a V-shaped window, one end of the window (the right end in Fig. 2) is closed. A looped channel is thus not created because the closed end prevents a looped channel from being formed. In view of the

comments presented on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 14-16 and 21 recite a looped channel, which is not the same a looped opening as also recited in claims 15 and 16.

Ishii thus suffers problems in that by using V-shaped windows 116, 120, pressure waves are generated in the common ink chamber as discussed in Applicants' background. The combination of features recited in claims 14-16 and 21 overcome this deficiency, and adequately suppress the pressure waves that are generated, by providing a manifold channel that is formed to be a looped channel. By providing the looped channel in claims 14-16 and 21, pressure waves are prevented from reflecting in the looped channels (paragraph [0139] of Applicants' specification, for example). Ishii's structure cannot achieve these advantages.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

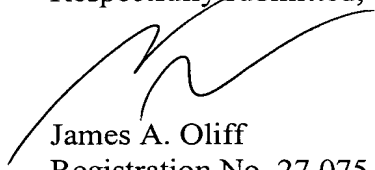
Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ishii in view of Burr et al. (Burr), U.S. Patent No. 5,907,338. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Ishii fails to disclose a manifold channel formed to be a looped channel, as recited in claim 17. Burr fails to overcome the deficiencies of Ishii. Burr is only being applied to suggest etching. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: February 28, 2007

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